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Committee for Human Rights in Grenada

EDITORIAL

MARCH 13, 1979 - MARCH 13, 1987

Eight years ago the Grenada Revolution produced the second ever liberated territory in this hemisphere, after Cuba, followed shortly by the third in Nicaragua. The leadership of the New Jewel Movement, the Peoples Revolutionary Government, and the people of Grenada provided a beacon for the entire region, gaining advances in employment, education, health care, women's affairs and social services that were unprecedented generally in the Caribbean. Perhaps the greatest advances of all were the self-respect gained from marching out from under the heel of U.S. imperialism, and the respect of all freedom-loving people.

For four-and-one-half years it was Maurice Bishop and Bernard Coard and the rest of the leadership who commanded this respect. On October 19, 1983, Bishop and much of the leadership were murdered at Fort Rupert, a harsh and mournful day, and on October 25 the U.S. invasion temporarily destroyed the Grenadian Revolution.

Today the remainder of the NJM leadership is threatened with a death penalty derived from a mock frameup trial in a contemptible kangaroo court financed by 5.5 million U.S. dollars.

No evidence has been presented *anywhere* that Bernard Coard or the other defendants approved or assented to, let alone ordered, the events of October 19, notwithstanding the contradictory mouthings of Cletus St. Paul. A basic principle of law is that *guilt* must be proved in court, but, in this instance, we have only the preestablished guilt determined by the U.S.-controlled media, Psychological Operations, and other propaganda machinery. Solidarity with the Grenada Revolution demands a free and fair trial for the NJM defendants. **INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY! STOP THE EXECUTIONS! LONG LIVE THE MEMORY OF THE GRENADA REVOLUTION!**

This committee is in solidarity with the Grenada Revolution and its leadership throughout the 4 and 1/2 years of its existence, and as it will inevitably be reestablished. The primary leaders of that revolution were Maurice Bishop and Bernard Coard. There are two divisive camps currently on the political horizon that we want to disaffiliate from. One divisive camp would lionize and extol the virtues of Bernard Coard, while defaming openly or by innuendo the contributions of Maurice Bishop. This we find intolerable.

CONDITIONS IN GRENADA SINCE THE OCTOBER 1983 U.S. INVASION & TAKE-OVER

Since the U.S. Invasion, Grenada has completely lost its sovereignty, dignity, pride, self-government, social security, and economic, political and social achievements of 1979-83. Since October 25, 1983 Grenada has been pushed backward to an earlier time of great hardship, no respect and despair. Grenada has been kicked down/backwards from its most dynamic, respectful PRG growth years of 1979-83 to its previous dismal years of exploitation, pillage and underdevelopment of both the neocolonial Gairy era (1974-79) and of the previous centuries of even more exploitative English and French colonialism, burning, slavery and destruction. Examples of this horrendous backward push that Grenadians have experienced and suffered since the October 25, 1983 U.S. invasion (supported and backed by their own creation - the OECS puppet-client state security forces of shameless reactionary Tom Adams' Barbados, Seaga's Jamaica, Eugenia Charles' Dominica and Kennedy Simmonds' St. Kitts) are the following:

A. GENERAL DETERIORATION OF LIVING CONDITIONS AND DESTRUCTION OF P.R.G. GAINS

1. Removal of PRG price controls on food, cement, housing and other essentials of life.
2. Summary firings of hundreds of Grenadian workers without notice, compensation or legal redress.
3. Unemployment now well over 50%.
4. Deportation of internationalist workers providing free health and other technical services under the PRG.
5. Uncontrolled escalation of land, rent and all prices.
6. PRG free medical, dental and optical care and free medicines accessible to all Grenadians, with specialists rotating weekly to all outlying parishes, now a thing of the past.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

The other and larger divisive camp extols the virtues of Maurice Bishop and the October 19 martyrs only, devilizing and condemning Bernard Coard and the other NJM defendants in the absence of evidence. Although they acknowledge the illegitimacy of the U.S.-controlled court, they have closed the books on the guilt of the defendants, arguing that the only question is who hangs them. This we find equally intolerable.

Solidarity with the Grenada Revolution demands implacable opposition to U.S. imperialism which swore itself to the destruction of that revolution from its birth, and succeeded in October 1983 and up to today. **STOP THE EXECUTIONS! INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY! A FREE AND FAIR TRIAL!**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

7. Socialized medicine is NOT supported by the NNP Blaize government, only expensive, St. Georges-based private medicine.

8. Grenadian graduates of world-recognized Cuban and other socialist-nation universities, in such essential and necessary fields as medicine, dentistry and agronomy, are not allowed to practice in Grenada by the Blaize government. This is despite the fact that their study curricula and degrees were evaluated very positively by the University of the West Indies in Barbados.

9. Dynamic Grenadian union movement and its leaders are now under constant attack by the USAID and US-AIFLD, both funded hugely by the U.S. government to fight existing popular unions and to set up ones they control. Grenadian workers and their unions and their 1979-83 benefits are neither supported nor protected by the Blaize-NNP governments.

10. Open prostitution is the order of the day since the arrival of U.S. troops, massive firings and the extraordinary price escalation.

11. Cocaine, heroin and even crack are the types of development introduced into formerly tranquil Grenada by the U.S. invaders. Their puppet Blaize government does nothing to protect Grenadians from these scourges.

12. The following key popular PRG organizations have been destroyed completely or diminished to the point of uselessness:

DESTROYED:

A. *National Women's Organization (NWO)* - Women's rights and gains (equal pay, maternity benefits and leave, legal enforcement against sexual harassment, etc.) no longer exist or are not supported/enforced by the government.

B. *National Youth Organization (NYO)*

C. *Grenada Human Rights Organization*

DIMINISHED:

A. *Independent, progressive union movement* - workers rights are practically nonexistent.

B. *Free judiciary* - replaced by U.S. government-orchestrated, financed and virtually completely controlled judges and court is subject to no outside appeal system. The human rights of prisoners do not exist.

C. *Free and independent media* - The Free West Indian Newspaper, Radio Free Grenada, short and long distance broadcasting stations were the secondary targets for bombing by the U.S. in Grenada, after only the two airports.

B. ECONOMIC DETERIORATION:

1. Grenadian dollar devalued to 80 cents US.

2. As of March 28, 1986 Grenada, whose economy was praised even by the World Bank and the IMF in the Spring of 1983, had a \$168 million EC debt.

3. Industrial parks/tax-free zones have been created to enable foreign investors to set up screw-driver industries with cheap, non-unionized labor working under slave-like conditions.

4. The Blaize Government announced the proposed 1987 layoff of 50% of Grenada's civil servants while keeping 74 foreigners on the payroll at high salaries (see article on Labor Movement for more on this).

5. While the Blaize government hires Americans, Barbadians and other allies at very high salaries, it refuses to hire recent Grenadian graduates of Cuban and other socialist nation universities trained in essential fields.

C. U.S. CONTROL OF POLICE AND MILITARY OCCUPATION

1. The O.E.C.S. (Organization of Eastern Caribbean States) occupying troops trained by the U.S. have returned in force to Grenada (just before the Kangaroo Trial conviction of the remaining PRG leaders). They are directed by U.S. military officers, usually in civilian dress. Their abuses are well known.

D. DEVELOPMENT - U.S. GOVERNMENT AND BLAIZE-NNP STYLE

Immediately after the U.S. invasion and occupation of October 1983 -

a). *Prostitution* - a colonial and neocolonial business and survival mechanism, not observed during the 1979-83 period, became evident as many women and their men were fired summarily without any compensation, and

b). *Hard drugs* (cocaine, heroin and now crack) - all of which had not been seen in Grenada before October 1983 - were brought into Grenada, Carriacou and even Petit Martinique. Today drug selling is used in Grenada just as it is in the inner-city Black and Latin communities of the United States, in Trinidad, Antigua, the Bahamas and Jamaica - to destroy (make zombies and criminals of) the vibrant, intelligent, militancy of the island's youth, and to make huge profits for its importers and high-level sellers. Before October 1983 the only drug seen in Grenada was marijuana.

E. SOCIAL DETERIORATION

The massive unemployment (over 50%), the unbelievable escalation of the cost of living; removal of accessible free quality services for all (education, books, uniforms, health care in each parish, public transport, etc.) increasing costs of those essential services and of such basics as housing and food; drugs; divisive, threatening and frightening foreign-controlled media and military presence have all (as planned by the U.S. and its NNP-Blaize puppet regime) led to a breakdown of the social fabric, distrust, in-fighting, competition for extremely scarce resources and criminality (including many robberies) as a survival tactic or due to drug addiction and a government that never defends or protects workers and the general public.

F. RECENT MEDIA CLIPPING UPDATES

The following information on the current deteriorating state in U.S.-controlled Grenada was obtained from such well-known sources as *The Jamaica Gleaner*, *Barbados Nation*, August '86 *USAID Report*, *London Caribbean Times*, *Indies Times*, *Daily Challenge* (New York), and *New York Carib News*. They all further document the cutting and closure of PRG popular programs and the complete destruction and control of the Grenadian economy and society solely for the benefit of American government and puppet Blaize-NNP "government" interests with absolutely no regard for the needs of the Grenadian people.

1. March 8, 1986: Budget Raises Cost of Living 12%.
2. March 28, 1986: New law passed by NNP government restricting travel, to keep Grenadians from traveling to socialist countries.
3. April 12, 1986: Senior road officers at Public Works Department in Grenville are exploiting women laborers and checkers sexually.
4. June 17, 1986: NNP to sell/divest Grenada Bank of Commerce to foreign and local businessmen.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



WHY THE MAURICE BISHOP TRIAL WAS NEITHER FAIR NOR FREE

(Statement from the Grenada Legal Defense Committee, an organization of families and friends of Grenadians who have been charged and put on trial following and as a consequence of the U.S. invasion of Grenada)

The Maurice Bishop Murder Trial was the longest and most sensational in the history of the entire Caribbean. It lasted for some eight months and was filled with inconsistencies. Throughout its duration the defendants complained that their Constitutional rights were being violated and that the trial was neither fair nor free.

During the trial itself a "Fair Trial" Constitutional Motion was filed in the High Court challenging the fairness of the trial. The trial has now ended and up to this day this motion has not been determined in the Courts of Grenada.

The following is an outline of some of the conditions under which the trial was conducted:

The Grenada High Court which tried the defendants was declared unconstitutional on May 10, 1985 by the Grenada Appeal Court.

The High Court Judge who presided over the case was temporarily appointed by the Grenada Government "For the purpose of hearing certain matters." This means that the defendants were denied their right to be tried in a court where the judge enjoyed the security of tenure and his impartiality secured and guaranteed and safeguarded in accordance with the Court Order of 1967, incorporated by Section 105 of the Grenada Constitution.

The trial took place in the absence of defence counsel who were forced to withdraw from the trial, on the instructions of their clients, when virtually every legal and constitutional motion brought by them was dismissed by the "temporary judge" without being given due consideration, in the view of the defendants, and when the said judge refused to adjourn the trial so that defence counsel could prepare and argue a related constitutional appeal.

The array from which the jury was empanelled was selected contrary to Grenadian law in that it was selected after the beginning of the February sitting of the Grenada High Court and not before as it ought to have been done.

The Acting Registrar who led the selection of the jury was a member of the Prosecution Team up to two days before she was appointed to act as Registrar. This contravenes Section 8 of the Grenada Constitution and could not guarantee a fair nor free trial.

On the April 18, 1986 seventeen of the defendants were cited and sentenced for contempt of court. During their enforced absence from the court the jury was empanelled. Since there were no defence lawyers present, the jury was chosen by the Prosecution only.

During the trial several of the defendants were beaten by police and prison officers. Some were allowed medical treatment days after and only when they complained in open court. The judge ordered an investigation into this brutality on the insistence of the defendants, but, up to this day, no action was taken on the matter.

Periodically, during the trial defendants were denied visits from their families and friends who they needed to see and speak to in order to prepare their defence.

They were also denied access to their co-accused and were subjected to varying degrees of solitary confinement.

They were denied pens which they required in order to prepare their defense, contrary to Section 8 of the Constitution.

The privacy and confidentiality of their legal notes were violated on April 18, 1986 when these documents were taken away from them by prison authorities.

At no time since the withdrawal of legal counsel were depositions of the Preliminary Inquiry given to the defendants so they could adequately prepare their case.

During the trial the defendants pointed out in great detail that they were tortured by Barbadian police officers, led by one Inspector Watson, and forced to sign "confessional statements." Nonetheless, all such statements were allowed to enter into evidence by the "Temporary Judge."

The Prison Diary, which could have supported defendants' claims of being tortured and prove the Barbadian Police were lying when they denied torturing, mysteriously disappeared from the Prison when it was called for by the defendants.

Documents vital to the defendants for the preparation of their defence, which were seized by the Americans during the invasion and occupation of Grenada, were not returned to the defendants despite their many requests to the courts.

From time to time, the defendants were prevented from consulting with their lawyers for the preparation of their case or other matters relating to it.

The defendants were fed on starvation diet in the first week of the trial after the prison authorities purposefully violated a Court Order allowing families to bring food for the defendants. In some cases they were fed only bread and water.

At the closing of the trial the defendants were called upon by the Judge to sum up the case. They requested copies of the court's transcript as they were not present in the Court when evidence was taken. The Judge denied the request and refused the defendants' offer to pay the cost of preparing the documents.

The trial proceeded under conditions of oppression, thus derogating from the fair trial requirements of Section 8 of the Grenada Constitution. Apart from the above:

- Defendants were tried within the Prison compound where the atmosphere of terror, oppression and fear was deliberately created by numerous armed police and soldiers surrounding the Courts, who also prevented and/or restricted families and friends from attending the proceedings, by the rolls of barbed wire surrounding the court; and by U.S. military aircraft flying directly over the Court House.
- The defendants were taken into the Court with their heads shaven, in a manner done for convicted prisoners, thus creating an aura of guilt, humiliation and conviction around them.
- The roll call of the defendants were taken in the presence of witnesses who were later invited to identify them as being participants in the charge being investigated.
- The defendants were called individually into the court by name for the purpose of identification, thus making the identifying process a mockery.
- Attempts were made by persons to induce some of the defendants to turn Crown Witnesses thus imperiling themselves and their co-accused.

These are only some of the conditions under which the trial was conducted. Can such a trial be described as fair or free, when it was conducted in violation of the Constitution, the highest law of the land?

NEW YORK FORUM HELD ON GRENADA MURDER TRIAL



Attorney Richard Hart



Attorney Ramsey Clark



Attorney Ian Ramsay

On February 9, 1987, a forum entitled "The Grenada Trial: Was it Free or Fair?" was held in New York. Forum participants questioned the legality of the recently concluded trial of 18 former political leaders and soldiers charged with the murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and other leaders.

The following are extracts from the presentations of the major speakers.

Attorney Richard Hart, former Attorney General of the Peoples Revolutionary Government:

"I describe the trial that has just taken place in Grenada and which is still subject to an appeal process as 'the continuation of warfare,' that is of the invasion and occupation of Grenada, by other means, the judicial process which has been used to secure convictions . . . The whole operation is designed to crush the social experiment that was in process in Grenada, to crush the work of the revolutionary government and to physically eliminate the surviving revolutionary leaders."

"The Grenadian people had a most traumatic experience. Maurice Bishop, a very fine man, was beloved by the people of Grenada. And he had been killed and the people of Grenada wanted to see his death revenged. And, for that reason, a large part of the Grenadian population initially actually welcomed the invasion, because they thought that this was a revenge for whoever was responsible for the killing of their beloved prime minister . . . And it was building on this that the psychological warfare department worked to create a state, an atmosphere of prejudice against the accused and to prevent any possibility of the accused being able to put out their side of the story."

Attorney Ian Ramsay, leader of the defense team:

"So, after the new Parliament was created, they restored the Constitution, but did not apply the Constitution to the judiciary. So, out of this whole constitution setup the courts remained illegal, unconstitutional." "In matters that involve life and liberty every citizen of a country that follows Western democratic tradition is entitled to unhindered access to the constitutionally established courts of the country."

"The court itself admitted that. Why does the court exist then if it's unconstitutional? Because, according to the judges, it is temporary as a court of necessity."

"What I'd like to leave in your minds are just a number of factors. One, the unconstitutional nature of the court. Two, that the period of necessity has expired in any reasonable sense. The court that now exists is entirely artificial. Three, the trial was unconstitutional. Four, even within the framework of unconstitutionality there were gross irregularities . . . There's nothing worse than injustice that comes under the color of law."

"What is justice? Is it revenge? How do you know that they're guilty? Who knows that they're guilty? How can you know it if it doesn't go through the system which has been evolved in this Western world to determine guilt or innocence? Do we each have a subjective right to find someone guilty? Perhaps you can for your own purposes, but you can't maintain that for societal purposes, can you?"

Attorney Ramsey Clark, former U.S. Attorney-General:

"The biggest news story . . . for 1983 was the invasion of Grenada. It's incredible that the most powerful nation on earth, that has a standing military that exceeds the entire population of Grenada 25 times over . . . could make an event out of such an invasion . . . And then doing the worst violence of all - the assault on truth."

"We announced that the Central Committee had ordered the execution of Maurice Bishop before we could have possibly known it . . . Why can't we the people in this last decade of our second century under this particular constitution know the facts of what our government did? Who put out the stories immediately that the Central Committee ordered the deaths? Who would be benefited for it? What was their motive?"

"I have never seen a trial like it . . . You had a judge chosen for the case by the same power that initiated the prosecution . . . You had a jury chosen for prejudice; the trial conducted without the presence of any counsel . . . It was simply an effort to create hatred, inflame hatred toward the defendants, and then systematically exclude them during the trial, with not one question on cross-examination of a witness; much of the testimony unintelligible; most of it contradictory with other testimony; none of it convincing, none of it really conclusory except for two or three people who were not believable, who contradicted each other . . . Prosecution summing up for two weeks, without a mumbling word from the defense, without a document or a witness on their behalf."

For a copy of the entire transcript of the February 9th forum, send US\$3.50 to cover costs to Committee for Human Rights in Grenada, Box 20714, Cathedral Finance Sta., NY, NY 10025.

UPDATE ON MURDER TRIAL IN GRENADA

A guilty verdict was returned on December 4, 1986 against 17 of the 18 accused of the murder of the late Prime Minister of Grenada, Maurice Bishop, after an eight month long trial that has been described as "rigged." On December 12, the notice of appeal was filed by defense attorneys in the case. The next step, the production of the court record (the transcript of trial proceedings), had not been completed as of late March. When it is produced, the defense team will have a maximum of six weeks to review it before a date to argue the appeal is set. Reliable sources say the appeal will not be heard before July or August.

A major issue regarding the appeal is whether the present court system will hear it. After the U.S. invasion and occupation of the tiny island and the election of the U.S.-backed New National Party Government of Herbert Blaize, the Grenada Constitution of 1973 was restored minus the portion on the judiciary. Although the Murder Trial was conducted before a court which admittedly was unconstitutional, it was justified by a doctrine of necessity, a doctrine which is designed to maintain some sort of system in times of war and disorder. However, now that two years have elapsed since the election of Blaize and a parliament, there is pressure to fully restore the old constitution. In November 1986 the NNP government finally applied to the OECS Court for Grenada to be readmitted, and the request was accepted. However, the government has yet to complete the procedure, and many feel it is stalling so as to make sure the defendants hang first.

Defendants Want a Return to OECS Court

Defendants and their attorneys believe they have a better chance for justice under the OECS court and with the added right of appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London, which they feel would be unbiased compared to the courts in Grenada. The court that tried the defendants was not only unconstitutional, but temporary with judges and prosecution attorneys imported from other islands and subject to influence by the authorities that hired them. Furthermore, since it was the U.S. that granted the NNP government some \$5.5 million for "support of the Caribbean judiciary," many feel the Reagan administration paid for and orchestrated the whole trial.

WHAT DO GRENADIANS HAVE TO SAY?

Letter from an unemployed working class mother:

"I must first tell you about the case on the Hill. If these men should be hanged the whole world will be looking on Grenada. We also have O.E.C.S. troops on our island Blaize and them bring them back. The peacekeeping forces are again on Grenada soil. When you see them in the streets, you think we are heading for war. Grenada is a battlefield."

We are calling on all peaceful loving people all over the world to say no to war and to ask for a fair and free trial with justice for all. Even if they are dead and gone the struggle is going to continue. We will never give up. Their lives will be all remembered for their good works. They can kill their bodies, but they cannot kill the souls. They live in the hearts and minds of the Grenadian people."

WHAT DOES THE CARIBBEAN CHURCH COMMUNITY HAVE TO SAY?

Sir Cuthbert Woodroffe, Bishop of the Windward Islands and recently retired Anglican Archbishop of the Province of the West Indies, a Grenadian by birth, in a farewell pastoral letter to the diocese, declared, "I want it known that I am totally against the death penalty." He mentioned the "lamentable spectre of fourteen people, one of them a woman and mother of young children, awaiting death." He said, "To kill those who kill that they may learn not to kill does not make much sense. My skin grows pimples in goose flesh as I ponder the thought of fourteen dropping to their deaths from the gallows in my beloved Grenada."

Caribbean Contact, organ of the Caribbean Council of Churches, editorialized, "However one does it, fourteen in one stroke or one a week for fourteen weeks, Grenada will be submitted to an ordeal which threatens to have incalculable consequences . . . Mercy and restoration are to be preferred to vengeance and retaliation."

SAMPLE LETTER TO SEND DEMANDING A FAIR TRIAL IN GRENADA

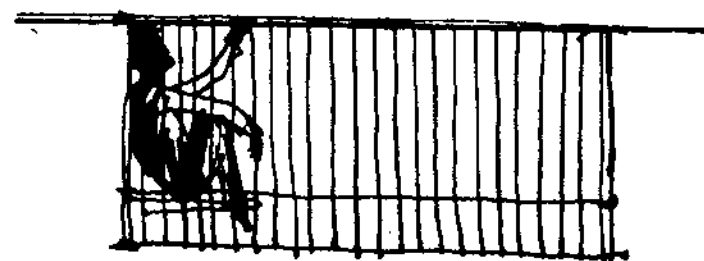
To: Prime Minister Herbert Blaize
Prime Minister's Office
St. George's, Grenada
West Indies

Dear Sir:

I am extremely concerned about the recent illegal and unconstitutional trial of the 17 former officials and soldiers of the People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada. I am also concerned about the many violations of the defendants' human rights.

I strongly urge you and your government, in the name of justice and of the democratic tradition to which we all adhere, to ensure that the defendants have a free and fair trial in a legally constituted court. Further, I urge that Grenada return as soon as possible to the Eastern Caribbean judicial system and that the constitution be applied to the judicial system in Grenada.

Sincerely,



GRENADA'S WOMEN

Except for a short period in their history, the experiences of women in Grenada have always been very difficult.

During the era of the Gairy regime few women were employed and, in most cases, their wages were lower than their male counterparts, even when they performed the same task. There were no laws to protect women; thus, many women allowed themselves to be sexually exploited in order to get jobs and hold onto them.

Society's mentality also put additional pressures on the backs of women. A number of women were forced to drop out of school because of early pregnancy, and with work being difficult to find, and little, if any, assistance from the child's father, it made the task of caring for an infant extremely burdensome. This led to a number of mothers and their children being malnourished. The physical abuse that some women had to cope with also contributed to poor health and sometimes to the death of infants.

Prostitution Rampant Under Gairy

Prostitution was the order of the day. Some women did it because they didn't care and had nothing else to do anyway; while to most, it was not a matter of choice, but simply a means of making money, a job, so that they could continue to eat and stay healthy.

Women's Conditions a Priority During Revolution

During the Revolution the plight of women was highlighted. Women's issues were broadly discussed and they were made aware of their value and importance to society. The rights they were entitled to were spelled out. As more women entered the workforce more nurseries had to be setup. Women were sent for training in order to deal with the serious problems facing both women and children. Women were sent to universities in a number of countries, among them Cuba.

NWO Set Up to Address Women's Issues

A women's desk was also set up at the Ministry of Social Affairs to look into the problems of women and children and to focus in on all issues involving women. There were groups organized under the banner of the National Women's Organization (NWO). These groups founded within communities all over the country, permitted women the opportunity to sit and discuss their problems and discover ways of solving them with the guidance from the women's desk.

Legal Protection for Women

Laws were enacted to protect women. Equal pay for equal work was established. Women became entitled to three months maternity leave with full payment for two of those months, once they had been with their employer at least a year and a half.

Other Benefits Under PRG

Free secondary school education was introduced. School books and uniforms were provided to the needy. Hot meals and milk were given to most primary school children in the country. The Centre for Popular Education (CPE) was established to fight illiteracy not only among adults, but also among young women.

Women Pushed Backwards Since U.S. Invasion

Since the U.S. invasion of Grenada, women have been pushed backwards to the neo-colonial days. All NWO groups have been banned and many women kicked out of their jobs. With job opportunities for women being scarce, many women employed both in the state and private sector, feel very insecure in their jobs. Employers no longer respect the laws governing the rights of women. Allegations are afloat of women losing their jobs upon becoming pregnant. The hot meal and milk programme for schools is now more or less non-existent. Free school books and uniforms for the needy are a thing of the past. Changes made within the CPE programme have rendered it useless. Prostitution is once more the order of the day.

Phyllis Coard Isolated and Condemned

Sister Phyllis Coard, the woman who headed this wonderful programme during the Revolution, is now isolated and condemned, her crimes being helping women to improve their status and being a member of the Central Committee of the New Jewel Movement (NJM). The world has been told that she has been sentenced to hang for the death of Maurice Bishop and others; most know that her "crime," however, is political and not criminal as the establishment tries to point out.

The state of women's affairs has deteriorated a great deal and their struggle will once more have to be taken up if they are to make any progress in the future.

ANOTHER TRIAL FOR 5 NJM DEFENDANTS

Five former members of the Peoples Revolutionary Army, already sentenced to death in the Maurice Bishop Murder trial, are to be put on trial again on charges of "maiming and causing harm" to prisoners during the days of the PRG. The five (Leon Cornwall, Ewart Layne, Dave Bartholomew, Liam James and Lester Redhead) are accused of harming the Budhall Gang who were convicted of planting a bomb in Queens Park on June 19, 1980 aimed at liquidating the leadership of the PRG. The bomb missed its intended targets, but killed 3 schoolgirls and injured more than 100 Grenadians. The Budhalls were awaiting appeal of a death sentence for their crime when the U.S. invaded Grenada and, soon after, Governor-General Paul Scoon pardoned them. Two other persons who were charged with causing harm to the Budhalls had their charges dropped at the preliminary inquiry. One of them, Rudolph Ogilvie, a Lieutenant in the PRAF, was not even in the country on the date he was alleged to have caused "harm."

VICTOR PALMER'S RE-TRIAL

Victor Palmer is a former prison officer, who shortly after the invasion, was charged by the U.S. and Bajan occupation forces with the murder of a Trinidadian prisoner. The prisoner was allegedly shot during the heat of the invasion, when U.S. helicopters were attacking the prison.

During his trial in 1984, prison officers who could have testified to Palmer's innocence were afraid to come forward to give evidence on his behalf, for fear of victimization. At that time, foreign occupation forces were fully in control of all aspects of the prison.

At Palmer's trial, the main witnesses testifying against him were members of the notorious 'Mongoose Gang,' who were facing long prison terms for brutalizing many Grenadians during Gairy's rule. A few months after Palmer's trial they were set free.

Palmer, who has been in prison for over three years, was found guilty and sentenced to death, but in January 1986 the appeal court over-ruled the verdict and ordered a re-trial. As of press time, the re-trial has been postponed to the June court session.

LABOR MOVEMENT UNDER PRESSURE

Sections of Grenada's militant labor movement still exist, but have been under attack since the U.S. invaded the tiny island in 1983.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has had undue influence on the labor movement. In its 1986 budget, USAID allocated almost US\$1 million to the AIFLD (Agency for Free Labor Development) to "assist in free trade union development and skills training." The Reagan administration had admitted, in a Dec. 5, 1983 report, after the visits of agency personnel to Grenada, that it had extensive contacts with "certain elements" in the labor movement there and that it intended to "re-structure and train" union personnel so that they would not be "susceptible to radical organizers." To that end USAID has tried to remove progressive trade unionists from positions of authority and replace them with those who can be controlled. Reliable sources in Grenada say U.S. authorities there have put out anti-communist leaflets for their agents to circulate in workplaces attacking progressive trade unionists as part of their strategy.

Chester Humphrey Challenging AIFLD

One such unionist, who has been the object of AIFLD propaganda, is Chester Humphrey, who was incarcerated for more than two years by U.S. forces seeking to extradite him on phony gun-running charges. While imprisoned he was removed from his post as Vice President of the Technical and Allied Workers Union (TAWU) through manipulation by the U.S.-backed New National Party (NNP) Government in cooperation with right-wing elements in the union. Nevertheless, control of that union today still rests with progressive workers who hold 13 of the 15 positions on the TAWU executive. In addition, Chester himself, who was freed from prison January 21, 1986, is now a paid employee of the union and, to the chagrin of the NNP, has been involved in many recent negotiations. Prior to the March 7 Annual General Meeting, three separate resolutions from workers calling on U.S.-backed, TAWU President Wilfred Hayes to step-down were sent to Union Headquarters. At the Meeting itself, Chester and his supporters again challenged the President Hayes, who ended the meeting prematurely with elections still pending.

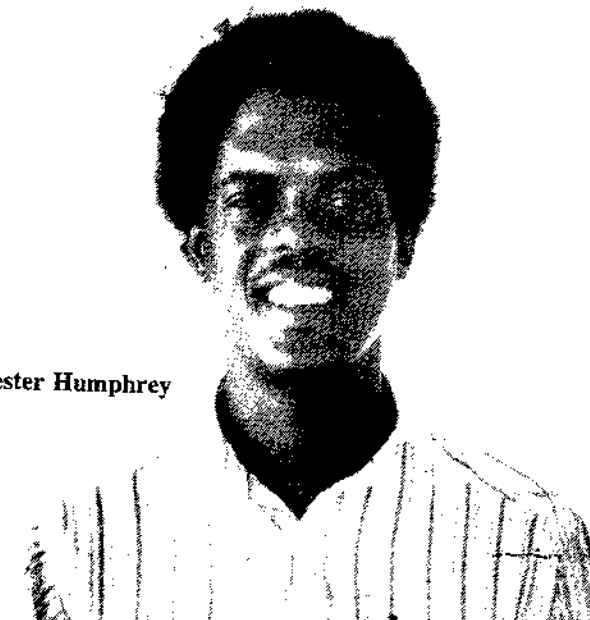
Anti-Worker Practices Encouraged

In addition to USAID's efforts, the anti-worker attitude of the U.S.-backed New National Party (NNP) has encouraged anti-worker practices by local management. Over the past two years, there have been many instances of anti-worker actions by management, with the sympathy, if not the collusion, of the NNP government. In one case last September all workers at the Telescope Quarry were fired with no notice or compensation. So far the government has not even replied to a letter of protest from the union involved, the TAWU. In the case of Grenada Breweries, when two workers were unjustly fired and the other workers went on strike in protest, management fired all workers. However, after worker pressure and token statements by one government minister, the Breweries' management was forced to take all workers back and submit the cases of the original two workers fired to arbitration. Meanwhile Prime Minister Blaize charged that "communist sympathizers" had been involved.

Politics Used for Hiring Workers

In another instance, the government tried to get rid of militant workers, by laying off all workers on the Eastern Main Road Project in July 1986 after the completion of "Phase II" of the project and then selectively rehiring for "Phase III", using politics as one criteria for employment.

Chester Humphrey



Tax-Free Zones With Slave-type Conditions for Grenadian workers

Another anti-worker tactic has been the creation of industrial parks or tax-free zones where foreign investors can set up screw-driver industries with cheap, non-unionized labor. In Jamaica workers in similar "parks" have complained about the almost slave-like working conditions.

Half of Civil Service to be Laid Off

The most serious attack on workers so far, since the U.S. invasion, is the announced layoff for 1987 of 50% of Grenada's civil servants. Some Grenadians view this as a reflection of the government's economic failures and a move toward purging the Civil Service of New Jewel Movement (NJM) members who have with permanent appointments. With workers fighting hard on this issue, only a small number have been laid off so far.

Money for Foreign Workers, But Not For Grenadians

More recently, public workers, representing three unions, sued the NNP government over the illegal deduction of one day's pay from the salary of those workers who participated in a one day sickout in February of 1986. The February action was to back their demands for salary negotiations. Although the Blaize government claims it does not have the funds for the salary increases workers say they need to keep up with the rising cost of living and to keep all of the country's civil servants on the payroll, it does, however, have EC\$1.0 million to pay some 74 foreigners to work in Grenada!



CONDITIONS IN GRENADA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

5. September 13, 1986: Two cases of malaria have been found; the disease had been eradicated in Grenada in the 1950's.

6. September 1, 1986: Budget to be slashed by EC\$10 million as the NNP didn't receive enough aid from the U.S. this year. Cuts include \$2 million for road repair program; \$1.6 million for community sanitation program; \$700,000 for school repair program; \$500,000 for dental care program; and \$400,000 for prefabricated housing plus 50% of civil service posts to be abolished.

7. September 20, 1986: MNIB (Marketing and National Import Board) to be renamed GMB (Grenada Marketing Board) with its important function of importing to be discontinued.

16 cases of housebreaking and stealing reported last week.

8. October 25, 1986: U.S. contracting firm, "M.K.", retrenched over 480 workers, mostly those employed at the new Mt. Gay Mental Hospital.

9. November 1, 1986: Grenadian farm workers off to U.S. to join U.S. Farm Workers Program; Grenada never had to resort to this before!

10. November 24, 1986: U.S. to construct Voice of America relay station in rural NE Grenada to relay broadcasts to the entire Eastern Caribbean.

G. CONCLUSION

Obviously the Grenada today in the spring of 1987, 3 and 1/2 years after the U.S. takeover, is a *totally different, debilitated, shamed and destructed nation*. It is the opposite of the proud, economically and socially developing and vigorous Grenada that existed during the New Jewel Movement-led Peoples Revolutionary Government years of March 1979 to October 1983!

The P.R.G. period was a beacon of hope, an exemplary example for the entire Third World, for U.S. minorities and for progressive, fair-minded people world-wide. Grenada today has once again been destructed, figuratively BURNT, this time by the U.S. government and its shameless Caribbean dependent "allies," just as the colonialists historically burnt it during the colonial era rather than allow a successful slave revolt to rule. Colonial slavery has ended and Grenada's modern-day enslavement by the U.S. and its own local stooges will also one day be brought to an end. *Forward ever, Backward never!*

If you have additional information about human rights violations in Grenada, please send it to the Committee.

HEARTBREAK RIDGE: NAKED YANKEE PROPAGANDA

In 1986 the film, "Heartbreak Ridge," was released in the United States of America. This film is based on the experiences of one American Officer, who is continually in trouble with his military and civilian superiors. This officer is given the task of making good marines out of a bunch of misfits. These misfits commanded by the said officer are involved in the brutal and illegal invasion of Grenada. Thus, what initially seemed like fiction is now transformed into Yankee propaganda of the worst kind.

Though not stated overtly, the film gives the distinct impression that the only troops the Yankees fought against in Grenada were Cubans, and thus promotes the White House lie that Grenada was under the control of Cuba.

In the film, the "Grenadian forces" always spoke Spanish, their dead were always light complexioned with straight hair. As if that was not enough, the Grenadians were shown to be very fond of Cuban cigars. At no point in the film did the "Grenadian Forces" speak English. The story was replete with historical inaccuracies.

According to individuals who actually participated as members of the Grenadian Revolutionary Armed Forces in the fight to maintain Grenada's sovereignty, the fight was carried out by Grenadians not Cubans, and they, the Cubans, only fought when their barracks at the airport site was deliberately attacked by U.S. troops.

The film is yet another example of the role of private capital in this country. It shows the length to which the propagandists will go to get their story across. They are fully prepared to do their government's bidding against any country through direct sabotage or vulgar propaganda.

For more updated information about Grenada, if you want to be kept informed, please write us at Box 20714, New York, N.Y. 10025 and enclose a minimum donation of \$5 to help cover our printing and postal expenses. We also appreciate names and addresses of anyone you know who would might be interested in this information.

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